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Michigan Senate

MIKE NOFS

State Senator

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June 18, 2015

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As Chairman of the Energy and Technology Committee of the Michigan Senate, I am writing to express my concern regarding the upcoming auction of 600MHz spectrum.

Having authored the most recent version of the Michigan Telecommunications Act as well as a number of other telecom-related pieces of legislation, I can attest to the tremendous advancements in technology and the roll out of advanced products and services that have taken place over the past decade due to a robust competitive environment that has been fostered for wireless providers.

Therefore, with respect to the upcoming auction for 600 MHz spectrum, I support the commission's goal of encouraging greater competition within the industry. To that end, it is critically important to ensure that any spectrum reserve established for this auction be sufficient to allow smaller wireless carriers, who may not operate on a nationwide basis, the opportunity to secure critical spectrum resources.

While all providers must be given a fair opportunity to purchase spectrum, it should also be a goal of the commission to ensure that the bulk of the available spectrum does not simply end up in the hands of a small number of very large carriers. In many cases it has been the smaller providers that have pushed the envelope regarding new technologies and price competition, which has clearly benefited consumers.

I recognize the delicate balance the commission must strike. However, given the importance and relative rarity of this type of auction, I urge the commission to consider increasing the size of the reserve in each spectrum market in order to continue fostering robust competition in the wireless industry while preventing the consolidation of spectrum resources in the hands of a relative few providers.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Nofs
State Senator
19th District